

Claims

1. Method for monitoring and control of an IP budget of a subscriber available in a packet-based communication network during online charge assessment of data transmissions, in which a control function in a network node of the communication network is provided which administers a central IP budget assigned by a charge computer and which, in accordance with assessment charges of the charge computer, for usage of resources of a data transmission of a number of data streams in a context which can be assigned to a subscriber, charges a central IP budget, with the level of the charge being determined on a data stream-specific basis.

2. Method in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a data stream-specific conversion factor or weighting factor is specified on the charge computer side for determining the level of the charger by a data stream, after transmission of a data volume in the data stream the transmitted data volume is weighted by the control function with the weighting factor, from this a corresponding proportion of the IP budget is determined and the proportion of the IP budget produced from this is deducted directly from the IP budget.

3. Method in accordance with claim 1 or 2, characterized in that to determine the weighting factor, the control function accesses a table which comprises data stream-specific assessment charges for data streams which can be assigned to a subscriber.

4. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that a GPRS network is used as the packet-based communication

network.

5. Method in accordance with claim 4,
characterized in that
the control function is located in a GGSN.

Method in accordance with one of the previous claims,
characterized in that
when a new data stream is added a new weighting factor or a
new table or an index to or identifier for a table element is
transferred by the charge computer to the control function.

7. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that
the central IP budget is only charged for resource usage by
those data streams which all belong to one context to which an
IP address of the same subscriber can be assigned.

8. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that
The central IP budget is only charged for usage of resources
by those data streams which all belong to the same context.

9. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that
on addition of a new data stream and usage of resources on the
part of the new data stream the existing IP budget is charged.

10. Method in accordance with claim 9,
characterized in that
the charge computer allocates to the control function an
additional IP budget for administration.

11. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims.
characterized in that
the control function, on addition and/or removal of at least

one data stream, transfers the remaining IP budget to the charge computer and the charge computer assigns the control function a new IP budget.

12. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims characterized in that

the control function informs the charge computer about the addition and/or removal of a data stream and the charge computer gives the control function specifications about a further use of the IP budget.

13. Method in accordance with one of the Claims 2 to 12, characterized in that

the charge computer informs the control function by means of a table or by means of a pointer to a position in a table about the weighting factor with which a transmitted data volume in a data stream is to be newly weighted in the event of a parameter change.